

University of Dundee

Great War Dundee

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SPECIAL COLLECTORS LIMITED EDITION!

GREAT WAR DUNDEE

UNIVERSE

20th September 2019
No.1

**A SUCCESSOR
TO CHARLEY'S WAR
AT LAST!**

ALSO
FEATURING

**THE
WOMEN'S
TOON!**

BY HAILEY AUSTIN,
ERIN KEEPERS AND
ANNA MOROZOVA

FREE!

FEATURING

**RAGTIME
SOLDIER**

BY PAT MILLS, GARY WELSH
AND PHILLIP VAUGHAN

AND
**CASUALTIES
OF
WAR**

BY CALUM LAIRD
& ELLIOT BALSON



DISPATCHES

GREAT WAR DUNDEE



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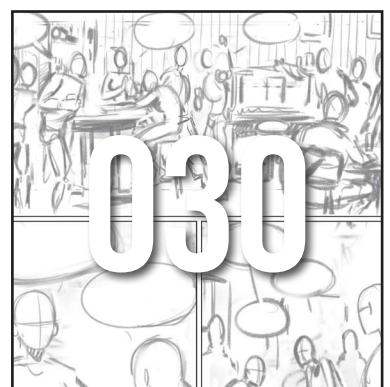
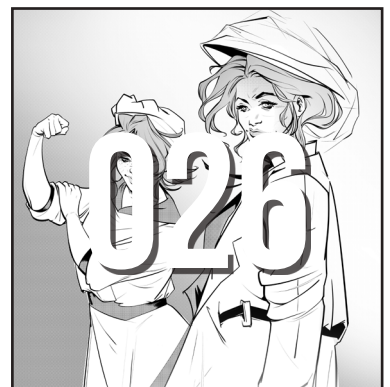
Thanks to:

Great War Dundee
Heritage Lottery Fund

This comic is part of the Great War Dundee (GWD) Hidden Histories project, which was made possible thanks to the generous support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund. It tells the story of the effect of the Great War on Dundee, and its aftermath, and draws on many of the resources and knowledge that the GWD Partnership has introduced into the public domain over the last few years.

The comic contains a story written by legendary comics creator Pat Mills, who worked at DC Thomson before creating the hugely successful British science fiction comic *2000AD* (1977-present). In the 1970s Pat Mills started work on one of the most acclaimed war comics of all time, *Charley's War*. This told the story of Charley, an ordinary soldier in the trenches during the First World War. This is a poignant and realistic tale that remains very highly regarded. For the GWD comic Pat has written '*Ragtime Soldier*', a story about a Black Watch soldier returning to Dundee in the aftermath of the First World War, and his attempts to adjust to civilian life. The artist is Gary Welsh, one of the University of Dundee's recent graduates.

The other strips included in the comic are '*The Women's Toon*', written by Hailey Austin and Erin Keepers, with art by *2000AD* artist Anna Morozova, and '*Casualties of War*', written by Calum Laird and drawn by Elliot Balson. All these creators are graduates of the comics programme in Dundee. Ian Kennedy provides the cover artwork. ***We hope you appreciate all the stories!***



GREAT WAR DUNDEE PRESENTS

RAGTIME SOLDIER

'DEDICATED TO EVERYONE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN WWI, AND THOSE WHO SURVIVED...'

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

BILLY KENEFICK

IAIN DONALD

DEREK PATRICK

FIONA SINCLAIR

PROLOGUE



SCRIPT:
PAT MILLS
ART:
GARY WELSH
PHILLIP VAUGHAN
LETTERS:
PHILLIP VAUGHAN
EDITOR:
CHRIS MURRAY

**WE ARE FRED KARNO'S ARMY,
THE RAGTIME INFANTRY: WE
CANNOT FIGHT, WE CANNOT SHOOT,
WHAT EARTHLY USE ARE WE!
AND WHEN WE GET TO BERLIN, THE
KAISER HE WILL SAY, 'HOCH, HOCH!
MEIN GOTT, WHAT A BLOODY ROTTEN
LOT ARE THE RAGTIME INFANTRY!'*

**BRITISH SOLDIERS' WORLD WAR ONE TRENCH SONG.*

DUNDEE, NOVEMBER 1922.

OUR
RAGTIME SOLDIER
WILL BE OUT SOON.
GET READY.

I FOAM AT
THE MOUTH LISTENING
TO HIS TOMMY ROT
ABOUT LOOS.

AYE. HE'S
AGAINST EVERYTHING
WE FRONTIERSMEN
HOLD DEAR.

IF HE SPEAKS
AGAIN TOMORROW, THEN
MR CHURCHILL WILL LOSE THE
ELECTION AND THIS SCOTTISH
LENIN, SCRYMGEOUR,
WILL WIN.

IT'S THOSE
DAMN LETTERS. WE MUST
PERSUADE HIM TO PART
WITH THEM.

G'WAN, ROBBIE!
NO ONE PLAYS RAGTIME
LIKE YOU!

WE WANT
RAGTIME! WE WANT
RAGTIME!

JUST ONE RAG,
ROBBIE. EH? TO SHOW
THERE'S NAE HARD
FEELINGS?

JUNK MAN RAG...?
RAZZASSA MAZZASSA...?
RAG TIME SKEDADDLE...?
I ALWAYS LOVED THE WAY
YOU PLAYED RAG BABE...

HOW ABOUT TEMPTATION
RAG...? BECAUSE YOU WERE
TEMPTED A 'RICHT, WEREN'T
YE, MAGGIE?

SO WHILE I WAS
FIGHTING IN THE TRENCHES,
YE WENT ON YER AIN SKEDADDLE
WITH MA BROTHER!

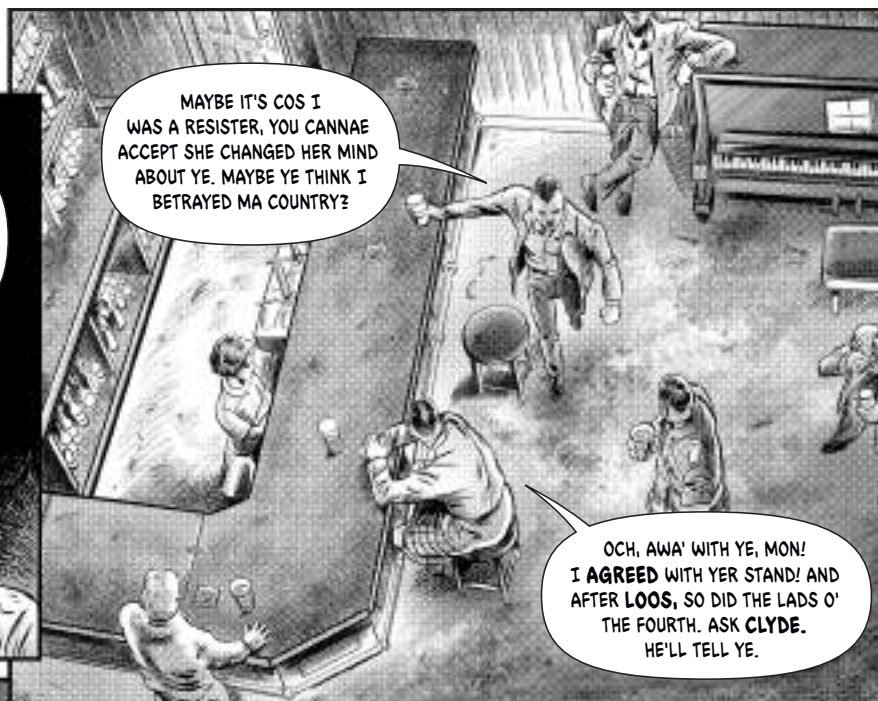
IT WASNAE
LIKE THAT, ROBBIE.
I SWEAR.

SO WHIT WAS
IT LIKE, MAGGIE
MA 'DEAR?



IT WASNAE EASY - WHAT WI IAN BEING A WAR RESISTER AN' ALL.

BUT WHILE YE WERE VISITING HIM IN PRISON, YE STARTED TO ADMIRE HIS... PRINCIPLES? AND FORGOT ABOUT YOUR AIN? WAS THAT IT?



MAYBE IT'S COS I WAS A RESISTER, YOU CANNAE ACCEPT SHE CHANGED HER MIND ABOUT YE. MAYBE YE THINK I BETRAYED MA COUNTRY?

OCH, AWA' WITH YE, MON! I AGREED WITH YER STAND! AND AFTER LOOS, SO DID THE LADS O' THE FOURTH. ASK CLYDE. HE'LL TELL YE.



WE KEN THE WAR WAS A LIE. AND CLYDE'S GI'EN ME THE PAPERS TO PROVE IT. THAT'S WHY I'M SPEAKING FOR SCRYMGEOUR.

BUT YOU BETRAYED ME, IAN!

YER BUM'S OOT THE WINDAE, YE BAMPOT. MAGGIE WROTE 'N TELLT YE THE BA' WAS ON THE SLATES. IT WAS O'ER BETWEEN YE, MON.

SO THEN YE COULD MAKE YER MOVE AND MARRY HER...? EHM NAE EEJIT!



SHUT YER GEGGIES, OR I'LL LAMP THE PAIR O' YE!

THIS FEUD HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH!

MAGGIE'S REET. WE'RE BRITHERS, MON.



GET IT UP YE. YE DESERVE EACH OTHER.



WELL, WELL!
WHAT WOULD OUR TEETOTAL
SCRYMGEOUR THINK OF HIS
RIGHT HAND MAN COMING
OUT OF A SALOON?

AW, NO!
MAJOR POLLARD AND HIS
LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN AGAIN!
YE KEN YE'VE CROSSED THE FRONTIER...?
G'WAN! GET BACK TAE YER SIDE
O' HADRIAN'S WALL!

WE WANT
THOSE LETTERS,
MCTAGGART.

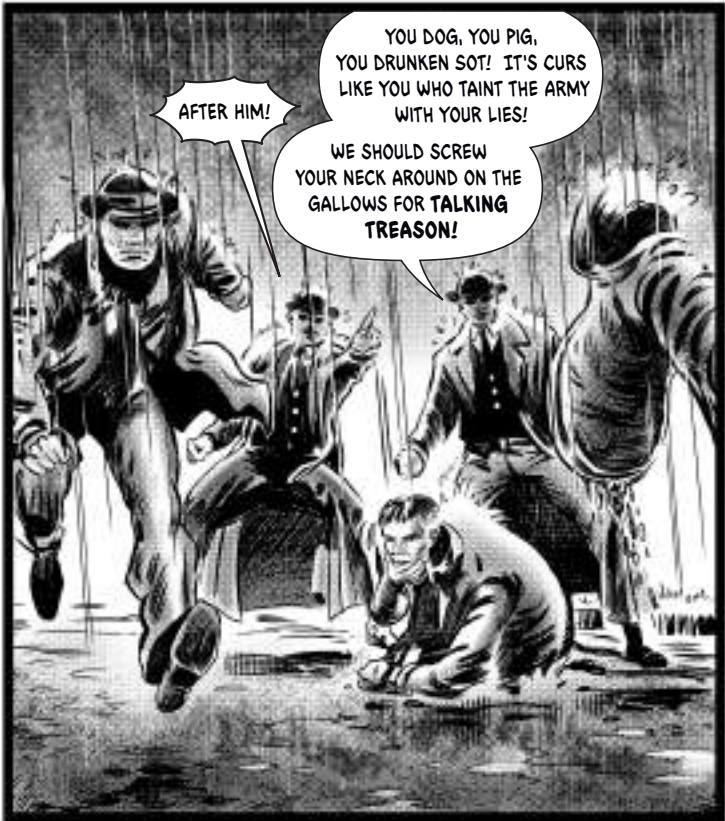


THEY'RE **FORGERIES**
FULL OF DANGEROUS LIES.
IT'S YOUR PATRIOTIC DUTY TO
HAND THEM OVER.

SO THAT **CHURCHILL**
CAN WIN...? THE MAN RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DARDANELLES? THE BLACK
AND TANS? THE INVASION
OF RUSSIA?

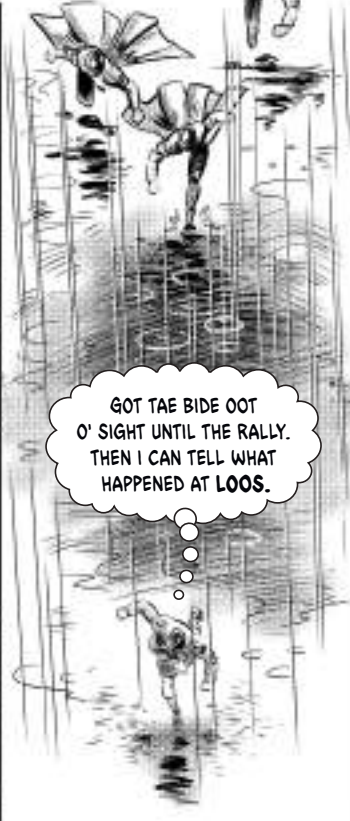


C'MON THEN,
YE SCUNNERS!



AFTER HIM!

YOU DOG, YOU PIG,
YOU DRUNKEN SOT! IT'S CURS
LIKE YOU WHO TAINT THE ARMY
WITH YOUR LIES!
WE SHOULD SCREW
YOUR NECK AROUND ON THE
GALLOWS FOR TALKING
TREASON!



GOT TAE BIDE OOT
O' SIGHT UNTIL THE RALLY.
THEN I CAN TELL WHAT
HAPPENED AT LOOS.



WHEN THE
BLACK WATCH WENT OVER
THE TOP ON DUNDEE'S
DARKEST DAY!

LOOS. 25TH SEPTEMBER 1915. 5.50AM.

TWO HUGE MINES BLEW UP THE GERMAN POSITIONS.

IT'S MADNESS!
THE JERRIES WILL BE ON
FULL ALERT NOO! THEY'LL
KEN WE'RE COMING FOR
THEM.

IT'S NAE MADNESS,
RAGTIME! IT'S DELIBERATE.
OOR GENERALS DINNAE
WANT US TO WIN.

OCH, HAUD
YER WHEESHT. YE SOUND
JUST LIKE MA BROTHER. HE SEES
CONSPIRACY EVERYWHERE.
I'M NO LISTENIN'
TO YE, CLYDE.

BUT IAN'S RIGHT.
THE GENERALS ARE NO
STUPID LIKE EVERYONE THINKS.
THEY'RE DOING IT TO CULL US, MON.
SO WE WON'T BE A THREAT TO
THEM AFTER THE WAR.

150 TONS OF CHLORINE GAS WERE
RELEASED FROM 5,500 CYLINDERS
TOWARDS THE GERMAN TRENCHES.

THEY'VE EVEN
ADMITTED IT! GENERAL
ROBERTS PRAISED WAR AS A
WAY TO GET RID O' 'THE GREAT
HUMAN ROTTENESS THAT IS
RIFE IN OOR INDUSTRIAL
CITIES.'

THAT'S
US, MON!

I TOLD YE.
I'M NO' LISTENING TAE
YE, CLYDE. I HAE TAE BELIEVE
THE GROUND IS FIRM
BENEATH MY FEET.

LIKE IN THE
GERMAN TRENCHES,
MIBBE?

BETTER HAVE A
LAST LOOK AT YOUR
LOVED ONES, BOYS!
WE GO OVER IN
TEN MINUTES.

SHE'S MY LOVED
ONE, SIR. SHE'S
TECKLE, EH?

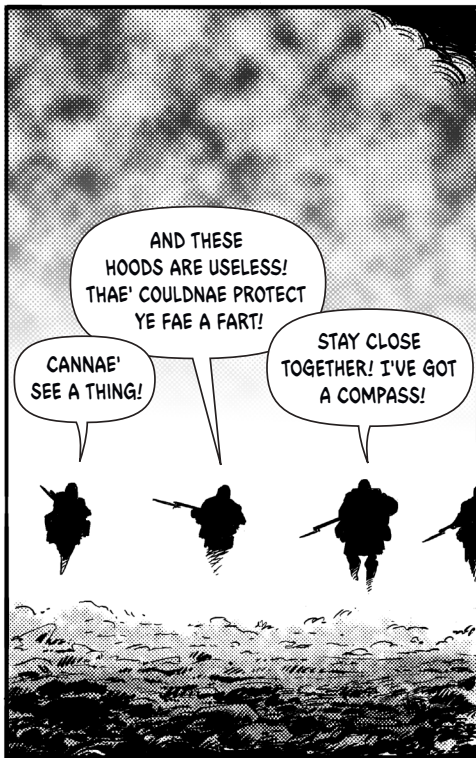
KIRCHNER,
EH? FIRST RATE.
EVERYONE LOVES HIS ART-
FRITZES. POILUS. TOMMIES.
WE'RE ALL CRAZY ABOUT
THE SAME BONNIE
LASSES.

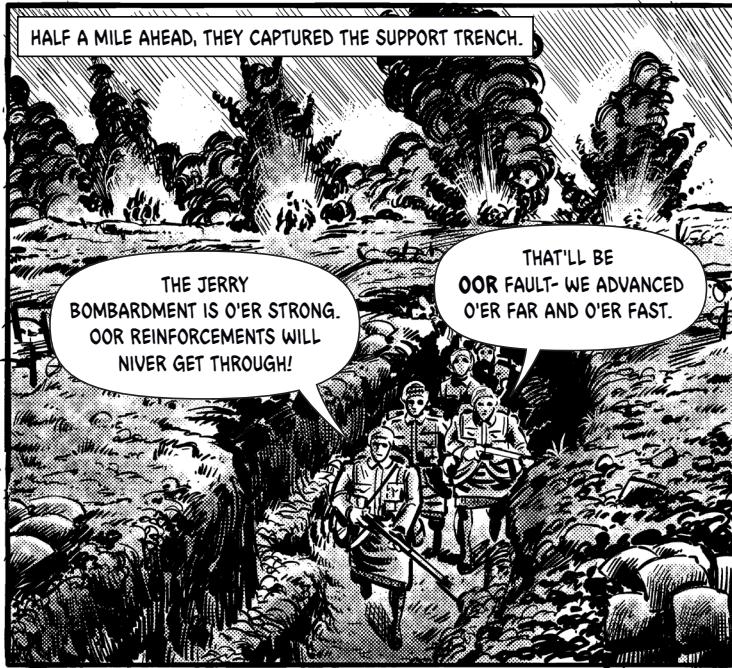
MAGGIE'S MY GIRL.
SHE SAID SHE'LL WAIT FOR
ME, NAE MATTER HOW LANG
THIS LASTS..



DESPITE THE GAS-COMPANY'S WARNING TO H.Q. : 'WEATHER DEAD CALM. IMPOSSIBLE DISCHARGE ACCESSORY,' HQ REPLIED: 'ACCESSORY TO BE DISCHARGED AT ALL COSTS.'







HALF A MILE AHEAD, THEY CAPTURED THE SUPPORT TRENCH.



HE'S GOT THE
ANGEL'S SHARE
NOO, SIR.

YOU'RE RICHT,
RAGTIME. HE'LL BE
RAISING A DRAM TO
US IN HEAVEN.

CLEAN UP
YER RIFLES, BOYS.
AT LEAST WE CAN
RELY ON THEM.

ENEMY SNIPERS SINGLED OFFICERS OUT FIRST.

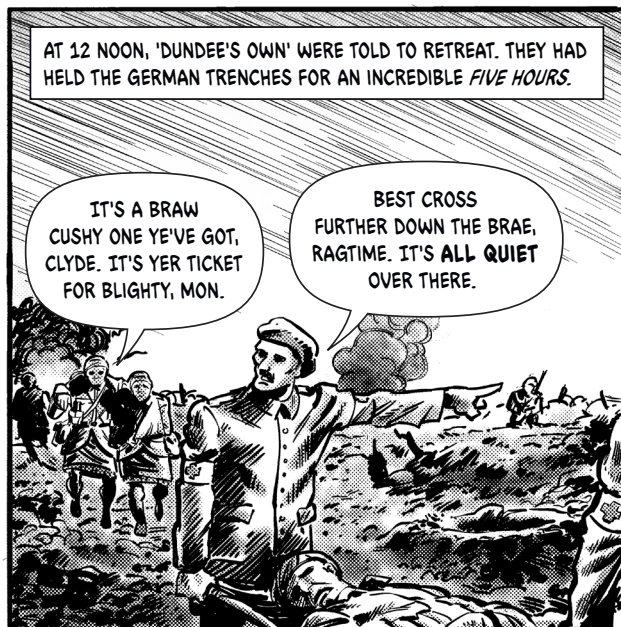


FIRE ON FROM BEHIND, IN FRONT, AND ON THE FLANKS,
AT 11.30AM, THE GERMANS ALSO COUNTER-ATTACKED.



CLYDE!

AT 12 NOON, 'DUNDEE'S OWN' WERE TOLD TO RETREAT. THEY HAD
HELD THE GERMAN TRENCHES FOR AN INCREDIBLE FIVE HOURS.



IT'S A BRAW
CUSHY ONE YE'VE GOT,
CLYDE. IT'S YER TICKET
FOR BLIGHTY, MON.

BEST CROSS
FURTHER DOWN THE BRAE,
RAGTIME. IT'S ALL QUIET
OVER THERE.

IN THIS SECTOR OTHER SCOTTISH SOLDIERS HAD FALLEN.
MANY CUT TO PIECES ON BARBED WIRE MEANT TO HAVE
BEEN DESTROYED BY HIGH EXPLOSIVE SHELLS.

THE CAMERONS, GORDON HIGHLANDERS, ROYAL SCOTS,
AND ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS WERE
AMONG THE HEAVY CASUALTIES.



THE GERMAN COMMANDER SAID, 'MY MACHINE GUNNERS WERE
SO FILLED WITH PITY, REMORSE AND NAUSEA AT THE CORPSE
FIELD OF LOOS THAT THEY REFUSED TO FIRE ANOTHER SHOT'.

THE GENERALS THREW
THEIR LIVES AWAY FOR NOTHIN'.
WIPED THEM OOT AS SURELY AS IF
THEY RODE OUT OF THEIR MANSIONS
AND BEAT THEIR BRAINS OOT WITH
THEIR POLO MALLETS.



WE'VE FINALLY
RUN OUR FOX TO EARTH.
**THE LETTERS, IF YOU
PLEASE, MCTAGGART.**

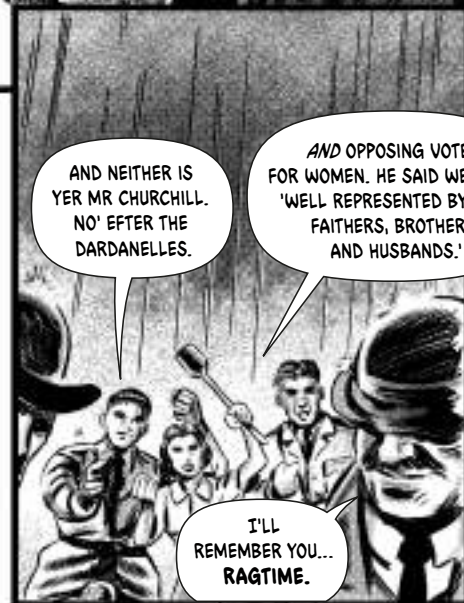
AND IF I
SAY NO TO YE,
MAJOR?

OH, I DO
HOPE YOU
WILL.



SLING YOUR
HOOK, POLLARD.
OR WE'LL SLING
OORS.

YE'RE NO
WELCOME IN
DUNDEE.



AND NEITHER IS
YER MR CHURCHILL.
NO' EFTER THE
DARDANELLES.

AND OPPOSING VOTES
FOR WOMEN. HE SAID WE WERE
'WELL REPRESENTED BY OOR
FATHERS, BROTHERS
AND HUSBANDS.'

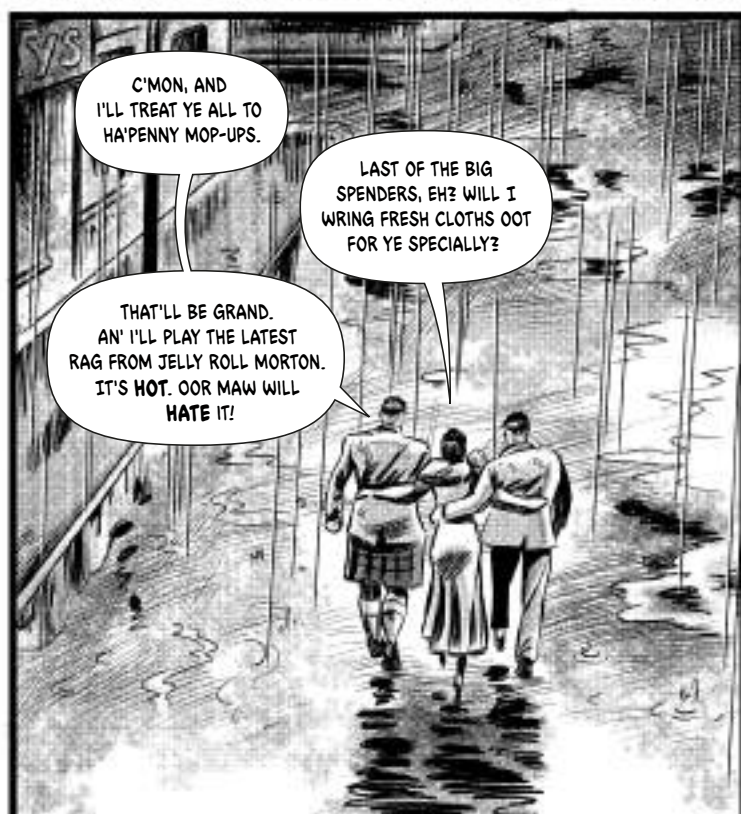
I'LL
REMEMBER YOU...
RAGTIME.



THANKS, MAGGIE.
AND I NEVER SAID AFORE,
IAN... I KEN HOW HARD IT
WAS FOR YE IN PRISON.

OCH, I DIDNAE
MIND BARLINNIE, MON.
IT WAS BEING SENT A
WHITE FEATHER THAT
REALLY UPSET ME.

IT WAS A
WHITE FEATHER FROM
ROUND A CHICKEN'S
BUM!



C'MON, AND
I'LL TREAT YE ALL TO
HA'PENNY MOP-UPS.

LAST OF THE BIG
SPENDERS, EH? WILL I
WRING FRESH CLOTHS OOT
FOR YE SPECIALLY?

THAT'LL BE GRAND.
AN' I'LL PLAY THE LATEST
RAG FROM JELLY ROLL MORTON.
IT'S HOT. OOR MAW WILL
HATE IT!

THE ELECTION RALLY ON MAGDALEN GREEN.

...AND FINALLY,
I'D LIKE TO READ LETTERS FRAE
A GENERAL IN THE BRITISH ARMY TO
HIS GERMAN OPPOSITE NUMBER
DURING THE WAR.

THEY WERE GIVEN
TO ME BY, LET'S JUST SAY,
A FRIEND ON THE CLYDE.

DRINKING
IS NOT
THINKING

"...WE APPRECIATE
YOUR GENEROUS OFFER TO
PROVIDE AS MANY RANGEFINDERS
AND TELESCOPIC SIGHTS AS
WE REQUIRE.

AS YOU RECOMMENDED,
WE CHECKED THE EQUIPMENT
OF CAPTURED OFFICERS AND
IT'S FIRST RATE.

WE NEED 8,000 TO
10,000 EACH PER MONTH OF
THE TWO TYPES OF BINOCULARS,
ONE FOR INFANTRY OFFICERS
AND ONE FOR ARTILLERY
OFFICERS.

DELIVERY VIA
SWITZERLAND. IN RETURN
WE WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH
THE FOLLOWING BALES
OF RUBBER..."

THEY TRADED
ARMS AND SUPPLIES
THROUGHOUT THE WAR.
THEY DIDNÆ WANT IT
TO END QUICKLY.

LOOS HAD TO
FAIL - SAME AS THE
DARDANELLES. IF THE ALLIES
WON, CONSTANTINOPLE
WOULD BE GIVEN
TO RUSSIA.

SO CHURCHILL MADE
SURE IT FAILED WITH A LACK
O' EQUIPMENT, SOLDIERS AND
COMPETENT LEADERS.

LET'S MAKE
SURE THIS NE'ER
HAPPENS AGIN.

'DUNDEE'S OWN' BEGAN THE ATTACK
WITH 21 OFFICERS AND 450 MEN.
BY NEXT DAY, ONLY ONE OFFICER
AND 210 MEN WERE FIT FOR DUTY.
THE REST WERE WOUNDED OR DEAD.

ANTI-WAR EDWIN SCRYMGEOUR WON
THE ELECTION AND BECAME MEMBER
OF PARLIAMENT FOR DUNDEE IN
PLACE OF CHURCHILL. TODAY, THERE
IS ONLY ONE COMMEMORATIVE
PLAQUE TO CHURCHILL IN THE CITY.

'BIG ENGLAND'S SORROW IS NATIONAL;
LITTLE SCOTLAND'S IS PERSONAL':
IAN HAY, THE FIRST HUNDRED THOUSAND
(EDINBURGH, 1915)

END OF PROLOGUE.



SCOT FREE

A GUIDE TO THE STORY OF
**RAGTIME
SOLDIER**

BY PAT MILLS



British soldiers called themselves the **Ragtime Infantry in World War One.**

It means *'dangerous and a bit crazy'*. It comes from Ragtime music, which was the counter-culture music of World War One, something that seems to have been largely ignored by historians. Perhaps they're not aware of just how important 'rebellious music' is to teenagers and young people in their twenties – and that was just as true a century ago as it is today.

In a similar way, just as the music of The Doors, The Animals ('We Gotta Get Out Of This Place'), and Country Joe & The Fish ('I Feel Like I'm Fixin To Die Rag') are associated with the Vietnam War and were loved by American soldiers, so Ragtime – proto-Jazz – was loved by the British troops.

It was like they were calling themselves *'the Rock and Roll Infantry'*.

Ragtime reached British shores long before the Americans brought us Jazz in 1917. I suspect that ports like Dundee and Liverpool would have been the first to receive the Ragtime sheet music from New Orleans in 1912 and 1913. New sheet music was eagerly collected by teenagers, just like vinyl was for later generations and creating playlists is today.

Ragtime often sounds rather dreary today because of scratchy, fading recordings and later versions available on Youtube, but the earliest Ragtime was rather cool. It was seen as 'dirty' music, sexy music, black music, and it was hot! For its time, it was revolutionary! The older generation hated this 'wild' new sound and the exciting dances that went with it. Inevitably, it was 'cleaned-up' with a parents-approved version by the clean-cut, wholesome and white Irene and Vernon Castle. They successfully *'removed the stigma of vulgarity from close dancing'* (Wikipedia). Dancers were advised: *'Do not shake the hips. Do not hop.'*



Ken Burns describes Ragtime in episode one of his *Jazz* (2001) documentary TV series. He relates how one fierce critic of the craze that was sweeping America said, *'Ragtime is syncopation gone mad. And its victims in my opinion can only be treated successfully like a dog with rabies – with a dose of lead. Whether it's a passing phase of our decadent art culture or an infectious disease come to stay, like leprosy, time alone can tell.'*

In 1913, the *New York Times* commented, *'Can it be said that America is falling prey to the collective soul of the negro through the influence of what is popularly known as Ragtime music. If there is any tendency to such a national disaster, it should definitely be pointed out and extreme measures taken to inhibit the influence and avert the increasing danger if it has not already gone too far.'*

This then was the *'dangerous'* music that our forefathers were into when they went to war.

FRED KARNO'S ARMY

Fred Karno was the *'King of Slapstick Comedy'*, responsible for introducing Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel to the world. So when our soldiers called themselves *'Fred Karno's Army'*, they were really laughing at themselves. They're showing the same satirical sense of humour that we see in *Monty Python* and today with shows like *South Park*, *The Simpsons* and *The Office*.

There's a fascinating Scottish link to Fred Karno's Army. The Scottish comedian Billie Ritchie also worked for impresario Fred Karno, and Chaplin was actually inspired by Billie's drunk Scotsman walk to produce his own famous drunken tramp. There's one silent movie short of Billie – *'Almost A*



Scandal' – on Youtube which is very Chaplinesque. If you can imagine Billie talking with a Scottish accent – and having a Scottish attitude – it might still come over to a modern audience!

LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN

This was a vigilante organisation dedicated to preserving the British Empire and had strong connections to the Establishment and the British secret service. One leading member, Captain Hugh Pollard, actually triggered the Spanish Civil War by bringing General Franco back from exile in The Canaries. Once Franco had overthrown the government and was in power, Pollard became head of British Intelligence in Spain.

Captain Pollard is a fascinating character – a classic villain I've researched carefully for another project. He is the equivalent of George MacDonald Fraser's Flashman or Captain Snell in *Charley's War*. He's the leader of the Frontiersmen in this story and he is likely to appear in future *Ragtime Soldier* stories.

MEDIA BLACKOUT

Many of the facts featured in *Ragtime Soldier* are not widely known today. This is because during the centenary years of World War One, there was a deliberate media blackout on any book, film or TV show that took a strong anti-war position. The reason is obvious, of course: if we question what happened in the past, we may also question what is happening in the world today.

At the end of 2014 I gave a lecture at the University of Liverpool showing numerous examples of this blackout. There's an audio recording of my lecture available at www.millsverse.com/charleyswarrevisionistspin/ along with a downloadable PDF transcript of my lecture. You can also view the powerpoint presentation, which shows many relevant images from *Charley's War* and key characters. I gave this lecture because I was so dismayed by how the truth about World War One was being deliberately suppressed by the Establishment.

Even the brilliant *Blackadder Goes Forth* was barely shown during the centenary years. Perhaps this is not so surprising, as it is loathed by politicians and revisionist historians who prefer us to believe their Establishment view of the war. Today's historians have successfully revised the long accepted anti-war view of World War One as a tragic nightmare caused by the Establishment and directed by idiot Generals. They have completely transformed the conflict into a *'just war'* directed by Generals who adapted to the new era and defeated an *'evil'* enemy.

Such historians are known as revisionist historians. They have been particularly successful in the last two decades, largely suppressing any alternative voices that challenge their Establishment view of the truth. Thus, the massacres and insane futility of the Battle of the Somme was presented on BBC TV as *'The Somme: From Defeat to Victory'*.

I visited the British Library bookshop, the very heart of the Establishment, in 2014 and found numerous books on the war, but there was not one about conscientious objectors or pacifists.

THE BRITISH RESISTANCE

Thanks to our media, words like '*conscientious objectors*' and '*pacifists*' often now have a negative association. As if there's something weird, or wrong with people who are anti-war. It's why I now use the term '*war resisters*' – a term I think is more powerful and appropriate.

Nowhere was the Resistance stronger than in Scotland and particularly in Dundee. Interestingly, many Scottish soldiers had great sympathy and understanding for the Resistance as the story Ragtime Soldier shows.

The heroes of the British Resistance have stories to tell that are easily as exciting as any story of the French Resistance during World War Two, but they will never be told elsewhere, thanks to the blackout. Comics are one of the few places to escape this censorship. There are a few similar voices out there, such as guerrilla campaigns by artists such as Darren Cullen (www.spellingmistakescostlives.com). His Action Man: Battlefield Casualties videos on Youtube are very watchable and brought down the wrath of the media upon him!

Amongst the many heroes of the British Resistance are Edwin Scrymgeour, E.D. Morel (both elected as MPs for Dundee, replacing Winston Churchill), John Maclean (Glasgow hero of Red Clydeside fame), John S. Clarke (the lion tamer who became a Glasgow MP), Sylvia Pankhurst and Alice Wheeldon (Framed by the British secret service, she was accused of trying to murder the Prime Minister with a poison dart!).

'MARMALADE!'

I drew on the Great War Dundee site for my research: www.greatwardundee.com It proved invaluable. And also contemporary accounts, including this remarkable poem written shortly after the battle. It was heart-breaking to discover that those young Black Watch soldiers from Dundee used 'Marmalade!' as their battle cry when they went over the top.

OUR GALLANT FOURTH

*Lads o' valour, lads o' grit,
Lads wha's frames are strongly knit,
Lads wha strike hard whom they hit,
Are in the Fourth.
The 'Great Push' found them tae the fore,
Like their sires in days of yore.
'Marmalade!' Eh, what a roar!
Cam" frae the Fourth.
They cared not for the rifles' spit,
They were oot tae dae their bit,
They've proved that they are lads o' grit,
Oor gallant Fourth.
'On the ba', Dundee', they cried
They as steel in fire were tried,*

*Nobly lived and nobly died,
Lads o' the Fourth.
When o' wordly cares I'm free,
And I've crossed the 'sullen sea',
Weel tae the fore I ken I'll see
Lads o' the Fourth.*

The People's Journal, 16 October 1915

I also talked to a friend from Glasgow who warned me that the Dundee accent was the thickest and hardest to understand in Scotland! I guess I should have known that from my happy years living in Dundee in the 1970s. So, to ensure I got it right, I consulted 'Dundonian for Beginners', the Dundee Evening Telegraph and final dialect input from Ian Kennedy! www.eveningtelegraph.co.uk/2016/02/29/13-phrases-undonians-understand-that-confuse-the-rest-of-scotland/

Special thanks to Phil Vaughan and Chris Murray (University of Dundee) who also advised me on the Dundee accent, to Dr Derek J Patrick (University of St Andrews) and especially to Billy Kenefick (University of Dundee). Billy vividly related how war resister Edwin Scrymgeour (the 'Dundee Lenin' according to





the local papers), defeated the mighty Winston Churchill himself! It's a story made even more remarkable by the fact that Scrymgeour was elected as a prohibitionist, who believed in *'thinking not drinking'*.

Thanks to all your efforts, we finally have a successor to Charley's War. At last! It's only taken six years and a trail of previous failed attempts! That's how powerful the media blackout really is in Britain.

It's no coincidence that Ragtime Soldier was commissioned in Scotland. There is no way it could have happened elsewhere in the United Kingdom. I tried many times. Only in Scotland is such freedom of expression still possible.

THE DUNDEE ELECTION

The story of the 1922 Election, of Scrymgeour versus Churchill, is an explosive one. It's fortunate that comics can reveal this astonishing story and how, with grim memories of Loos, the Somme and Ypres, Dundee voted against Churchill.

I adapted the comments of J.B. Priestley ('An Inspector Calls') for 'Red' Clyde to say in the story. It sums up the horror of Loos so much better than I ever could and tells us what must have been in the minds of Dundonians when they went to the polls:

'The British command specialised in throwing men away for nothing. The tradition of an officer class, defying both imagination and common sense, killed most of my friends as surely as if those cavalry generals had come out of the chateaux with polo mallets and beaten their brains out.'

Also in the election and also elected as MP, was Resistance leader E.D. Morel. He had previously exposed the atrocities of the Belgians in the Congo in 'Red Rubber'. During the war he courageously exposed how – through secret diplomacy – Britain had manipulated the other nations into war. Reading his book *'Truth and the War'* (1916), I was struck by how similar it was to how Tony Blair manipulated Britain into the Iraq War in 2003.

Morel's book was the WikiLeaks of its day. And, like Julian Assange,

he would pay for his revelations. He was thrown into prison on a trumped-up charge and they broke his health so that when he emerged, *'His hair is completely white (there was hardly a tinge of white before) when he first came out, he collapsed completely, physically and mentally, largely as the result of insufficient food. He says one only gets three quarters of an hour reading in the whole day – the rest of the time is spent on prison work, etc.'*

I had an interesting exchange of tweets some years back with leading revisionist historian Professor Gary Sheffield about Morel. I pointed out that Morel had shown Britain was responsible for the Great War. He courteously replied that Morel was mistaken in his views, although he didn't explain to me how.

For a Resistance leader like Morel to be elected, too, shows just how much Dundonians knew about what was really going on in the world. There were cheap anti-Establishment pamphlets (the blogs of their day) available to them and I believe they were actually better informed than we are today.

PROLONGING THE WAR

The case that the war was deliberately extended is made in *Prolonging the Agony: How The Anglo-American Establishment Deliberately Extended WWI by Three-and-a-Half Years*, by Scottish authors Jim Macgregor and Gerry Docherty (2018). See also their blog, which includes excerpts: www.ww1hiddenhistory.co.uk/

To my knowledge, no revisionist historian has ever answered their serious charges. Namely, that millions of young men died for no reason other than the Establishment's pursuit of power



TRADING WITH THE ENEMY

Adam Hochschild's powerful *To End All Wars* (2011) inspired Robbie's letter revealing trading with the enemy during the conflict. On Page 161, Hochschild quotes similar correspondence between the British and German armies. The binoculars used by the British at the Battle of Loos were actually supplied by the German enemy in exchange for rubber!

This cannot be explained away as an isolated incident, a single error of judgement. It was going on all the time. There are numerous other sources that show Britain, Germany and France were all regularly trading arms materials and doing deals with each other during the war: High explosives, poison gas, guns, aluminium for Zeppelins, barbed wire, Zeiss sniper lenses. And more.

For example, *'French bauxite also entered Switzerland freely during the war, was there manufactured into aluminium, and then shipped into Germany for the construction of submarines.'* *Merchants of Death* by H. C. Engelbrecht and F. C. Hanighen (1934).

'Vickers had been supplying the Turkish artillery with shells which were fired into the Australian, New Zealand and British troops as they were scrambling up Anzac Cove... their weapons mashed up into bloody pulp... the flower of Anzac, the youth of Australia and New Zealand, yes, and of the youth of our own country.' *Iron, Blood and Profits* by George Seldes (1934).

Trading with the enemy is, of course, treason. This is noticeably not a subject covered by today's historians because it would destroy their claim that World War One was a just war.

and for commercial gain. I draw on their material in *Ragtime Soldier*.

Jim Macgregor told me that their previous book *Hidden History: The Secret Origins of the First World War* (2013) was also ignored. No mainstream newspaper has reviewed it. There's that media blackout again. Yet through quotes, hard facts, and impressive research, they prove their case beyond reasonable doubt.

Jim and Gerry are far from alone in their views that the war was deliberately prolonged. The great poet Lieutenant Siegfried Sassoon wrote an open letter of protest in 1917:

'I am making this statement as an act of wilful defiance of military authority because I believe that the war is being deliberately prolonged by those who have the power to end it. I am a soldier, convinced that I am acting on behalf of soldiers. I believe that the war upon which I entered as a war of defence and liberation has now become a war of aggression and conquest.'

By comparison, it's often claimed that the generals and politicians were stupid and incompetent and *'sleepwalked into war'*. It's a useful excuse, sometimes

suggested by historians to get the Establishment off the hook, but it's actually nonsense. Whilst personal stupidity certainly played a role, as J. B. Priestley comments above, the terrible conflict was actually calculated, deliberate and horribly clever – as Jim and Gerry show in their books. Just like the way modern wars are created. No one ever *'sleepwalks into war.'*

I refer in the story to the possibility that the war was also motivated by a desire to cull the population, because they were striking for better working conditions and were seen as a threat to the Establishment. I quote General Roberts, who praised war as, *'a way to get rid of the great human rotteness that is rife in our industrial cities.'* Cities like Dundee, perhaps? It's rare for Establishment figures to talk so openly, usually they know how to keep their mouths shut. But sometimes they just can't help themselves and their masks slip.

General Haig was certainly indifferent to the huge losses. *'We lament too much over death. We should regard it as a change to another room... Three years of war and the loss of one-tenth of the manhood of the nation is not too great a price to pay in so great a cause.'*

THE NEXT RAGTIME SOLDIER STORY?

You must have wondered, as I have, how soldiers could face going over the top to almost certain death. How is that possible? It seems insane. It's heroism far above and beyond the call of duty.

In many cases, like at Loos, I'm sure it was youthful optimism, fighting spirit, comradeship, not wanting to let their mates down, pride in their city, their regiment, their King and Country that motivated them.

But there are darker aspects to the war that I didn't know about when I wrote *Charley's War*, that I'd like to return to in future stories about the Ragtime Soldier and his comrades in the aftermath of war.

One of them is the widespread military supply of cocaine to the troops – 'Forced March' – issued to British, French and German soldiers via a factory in neutral Holland. See:

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/xdvnd3/holland-was-the-worlds-biggest-coke-manufacturer

Here's what researcher Connie Braam said:

'Forced March packed more punch: it contained both caffeine and cocaine. And that combination really gets you going. I checked it with pharmacologists, and they told me this stuff made you crazy. These pills were really heavy. And millions were made. Which was handy for usage, because taking cocaine in powder form isn't very practical in the trenches... And perhaps a lot of soldiers wouldn't take the stuff voluntarily. So I suspect that in a lot of cases it was mixed with rum. A lot of soldiers were given a mug of rum before they went over the top and out of the trenches. And sometimes it would be rum with coke. Mixing alcohol with cocaine doubles the effects of the stuff. But that's not something that's reflected in the movies or in general knowledge about the Great War.'

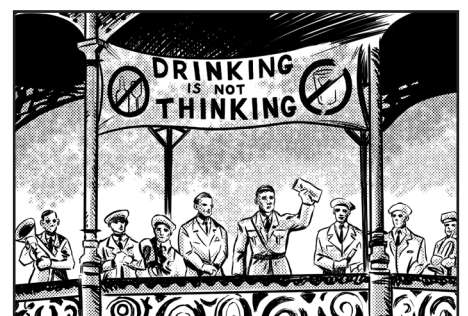
Hundreds of thousands heavily addicted soldiers were walking around through Europe after the war. I found articles about that in The Times. One article reported about hundreds of addicted veterans roaming the British streets to rob pharmacists.'

It's known that troops were sometimes given the tablets to help them complete long marches, but this is something altogether different, and it would explain the huge number of tablets produced in Holland and sold to the different combatants. So I can see my next story where our Ragtime Soldier finds an addicted and crazy comrade breaking into a chemist's during the aftermath. Robbie learns the shocking truth about why his friend is an addict – after he regularly took his 'rum' ration before 'Going over the top' during the Battle of the Somme. Influenced by Scrymgeour, and having taken the Pledge to please his mum, Robbie was teetotal at the time and thus he was not affected by 'Forced March'.

Revealing the darker side of war doesn't take away from soldiers' courage: it can only add to our understanding of what happened to them. And make us value these heroes all the more as we appreciate just how badly they were treated.

Today, anything that might challenge the Establishment view of the Great War as a tragic, terrible, yet noble and righteous war for freedom simply never happened.

Yet the politicians, generals and arms manufacturers who deliberately started and prolonged the war, 'sacrificing' an entire generation of Ragtime Soldiers for their power and profit, clearly should have faced a Nuremburg-style War Crimes Tribunal after the conflict. Instead, they got away with their crimes. **Scot-free.** ■



CASUALTIES OF WAR

STORY BY
CALUM LAIRD

ART & LETTERS BY
ELLIOT BALSON

IN 1914 YOUNG BRITISH MEN FLOCK TO THE FLAG. THEY JOIN UP, ALL MATES TOGETHER, ANXIOUS TO BE IN "BERLIN BY CHRISTMAS".



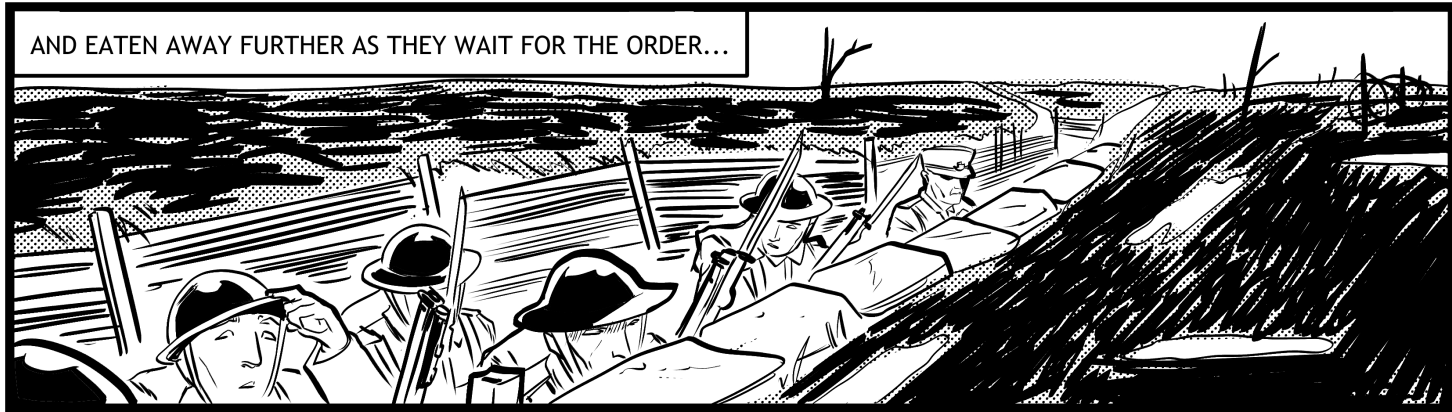
THEY MARCH AWAY FULL OF CONFIDENCE.



CONFIDENCE QUESTIONED A LITTLE AS THE FRONT LINE DRAWS NEAR.



AND EATEN AWAY FURTHER AS THEY WAIT FOR THE ORDER...



OVER
THE TOP!



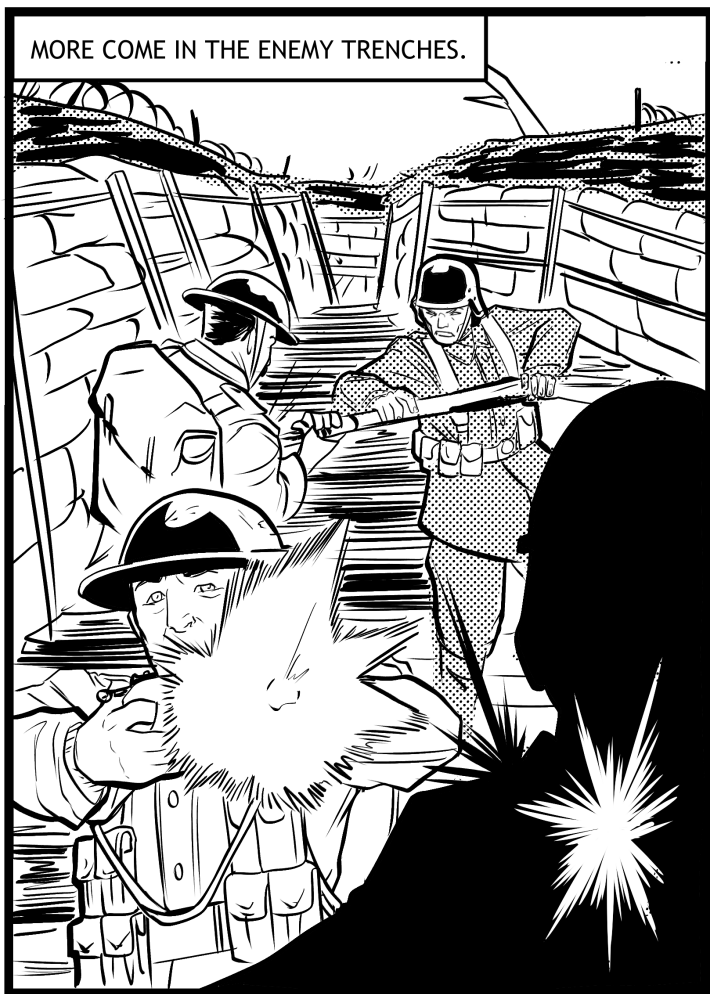
URRGH!

MY GOD,
I NEVER THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE
LIKE THIS!

IN NO-MAN'S-LAND COME THE CASUALTIES.



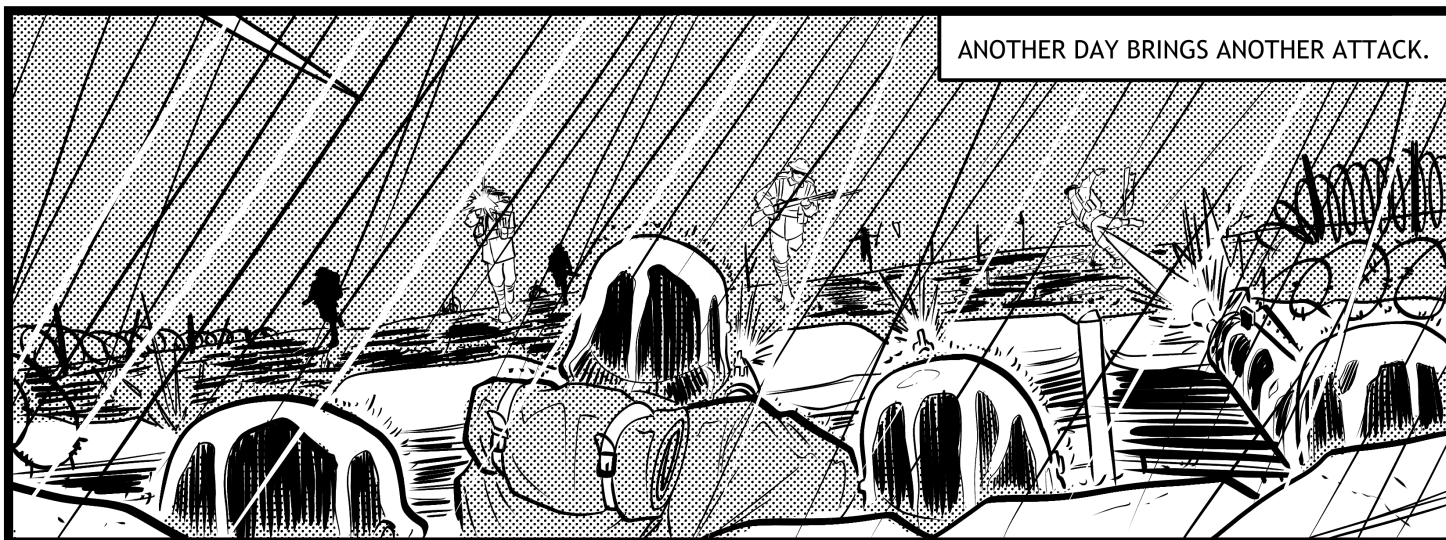
MORE COME IN THE ENEMY TRENCHES.



BUT STILL THERE IS KINDNESS FOR A FALLEN COMRADE.



ANOTHER DAY BRINGS ANOTHER ATTACK.



ANOTHER CASUALTY.

ANOTHER HALF-PENNY BOOK.

SAFELY IN HIS PACK.

SOON THOUGH THIS IS NOT ENOUGH.

YOU WON'T
BE NEEDING THAT
IRON CROSS ANYMORE,
FRITZ. YOU CAN KEEP
YOUR FAMILY SNAPS,
THOUGH.

COMES THE
FATEFUL DAY.

URRGH.
HELP ME.

EH? AIN'T
YOU DEAD?

YOU ARE
NOW, CHUM.

BEHIND THE LINES, SUDDENLY ALONE... OR NOT?

WHO'S
THERE?

AHEAD, STOCK STILL A GHOSTLY FIGURE STANDS.

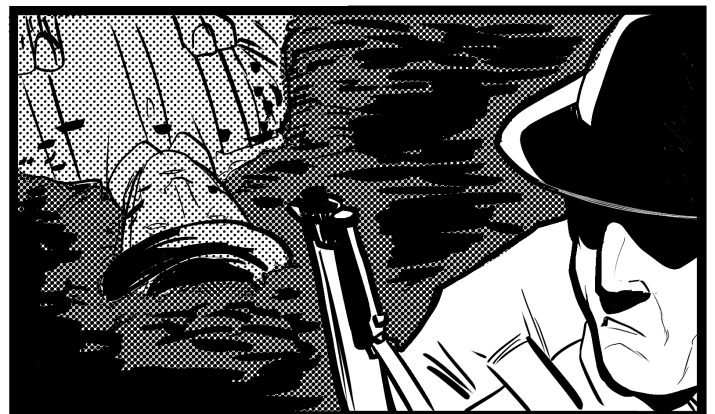
BUT...
YOU'RE DEAD.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

DO YOU WANT YOUR
STUFF BACK? HERE, TAKE IT.
TAKE IT ALL.



SHELL-SHOCK
CASE, EH?

GET
OUT OF
MY WAY!



THERE IS NO REMORSE AS THE
SOLDIER SINKS INTO THE MUD.

FLAMIN' LOONIES.
OH HO, WHAT HAVE
WE HERE?

NOW,
MISTER HUN.
THAT FEELS LIKE
A NICE FAT
WALLET.

WHAT
THE..?

CLICK

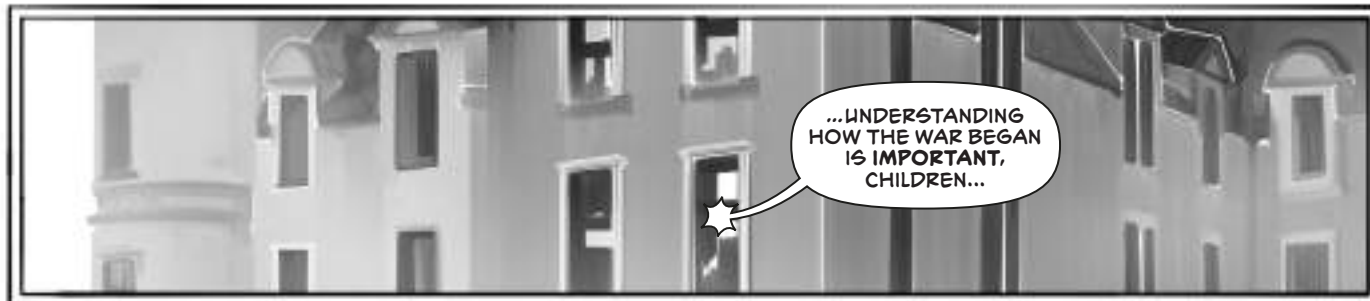
THAT NIGHT A LIFE IS SNUFFED OUT BY A BOOBY-TRAP.

IN TRUTH, THOUGH, HE HAD DIED A LONG
TIME BEFORE, HIS HUMANITY OBLITERATED –
ANOTHER OF THE CASUALTIES OF WAR...

THE END

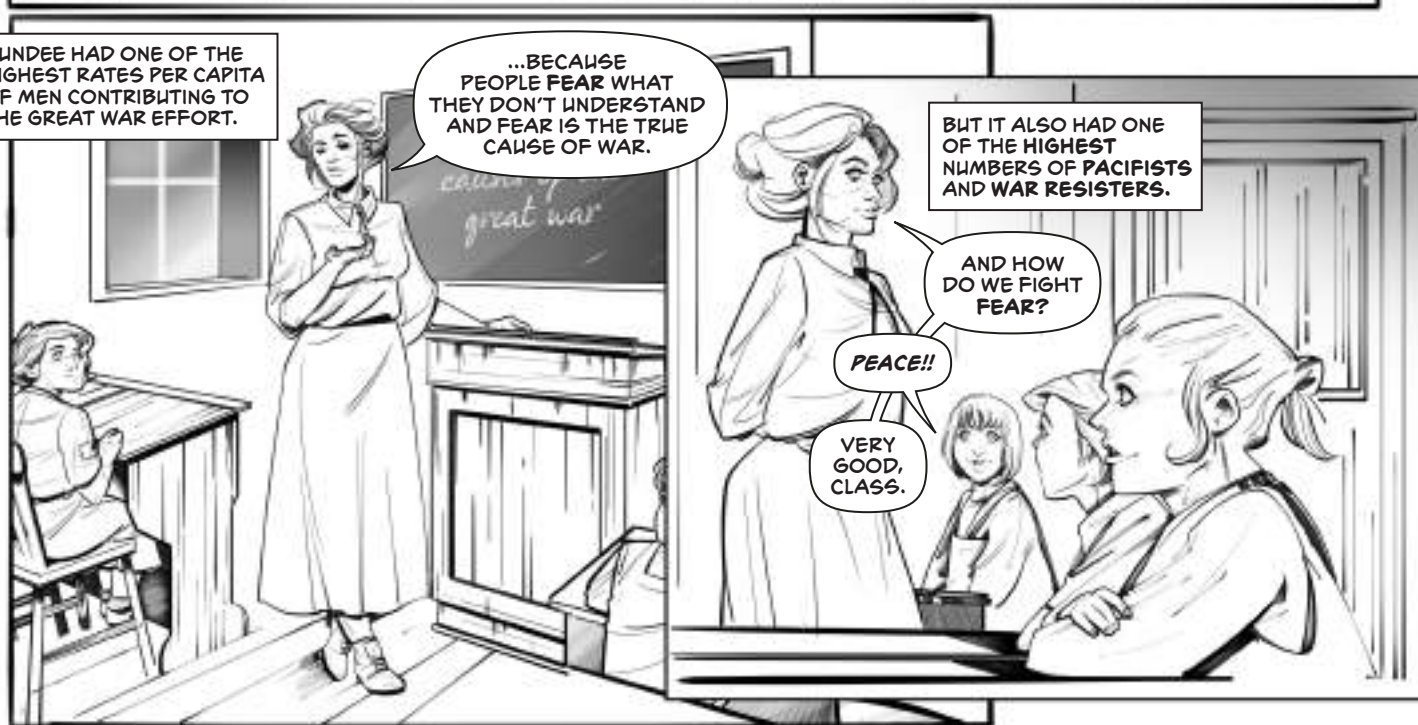


IN 1915, DUNDEE WAS AN INCREDIBLY DIVIDED TOWN...



...UNDERSTANDING HOW THE WAR BEGAN IS IMPORTANT, CHILDREN...

DUNDEE HAD ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES PER CAPITA OF MEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE GREAT WAR EFFORT.



...BECAUSE PEOPLE FEAR WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND AND FEAR IS THE TRUE CAUSE OF WAR.

BUT IT ALSO HAD ONE OF THE HIGHEST NUMBERS OF PACIFISTS AND WAR RESISTERS.

AND HOW DO WE FIGHT FEAR?

PEACE!!

VERY GOOD, CLASS.



BEFORE THE WAR, WOMEN MADE UP HALF OF THE WORKFORCE IN DUNDEE, EARNING IT THE NICKNAME, THE

Women's Teen

THERE YOU ARE, ELMA!

SORRY, DOTTIE!

HOW DO YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO MAKE US LATE? THE WSPU* MEETING WON'T WAIT FOR US.


*WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNION.

SCRIPT: HAILEY AUSTIN & ERIN KEEPERS
ART: ANNA MOROZOVA
LETTERS: EMMELINE PANKHURST

AND THOSE WAR LOVERS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S COMING THEIR WAY!

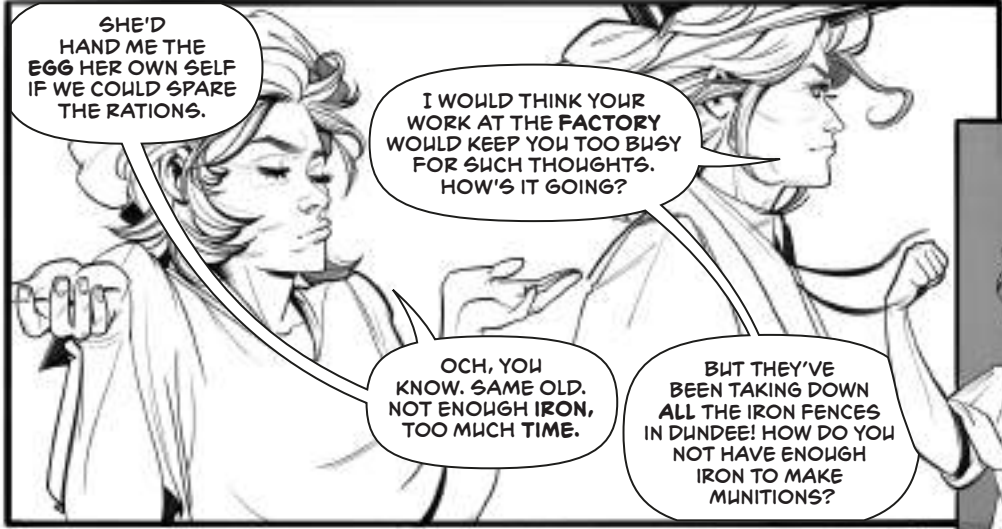
I DON'T IMAGINE IT WILL BE AN EXCITING PROTEST, MISS MUNITIONETTE.

BUT STILL! I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY STOPPED FIGHTING FOR THE VOTE AND JUMPED IN BED WITH THE WAR EFFORT!



THE WSPU
ISN'T LIKE IT WAS
BEFORE. I'D LIKE TA'VE
CHUCKED A GOOGIE AT
OLD CHURCHILL!

ELMA FINNIE,
YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T
TELL YOUR *MOTHER*
YOU'RE TALKING
LIKE THAT.




SHE'D
HAND ME THE
EGG HER OWN SELF
IF WE COULD SPARE
THE RATIONS.

I WOULD THINK YOUR
WORK AT THE FACTORY
WOULD KEEP YOU TOO BUSY
FOR SUCH THOUGHTS.
HOW'S IT GOING?

OCH, YOU
KNOW. SAME OLD.
NOT ENOUGH IRON,
TOO MUCH TIME.


BUT THEY'VE
BEEN TAKING DOWN
ALL THE IRON FENCES
IN DUNDEE! HOW DO YOU
NOT HAVE ENOUGH
IRON TO MAKE
MUNITIONS?



BECAUSE
WOMEN ARE *EFFICIENT*!
THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN
A MUNITIONS SHORTAGE IF
THEY LET US WORK LAST
YEAR!

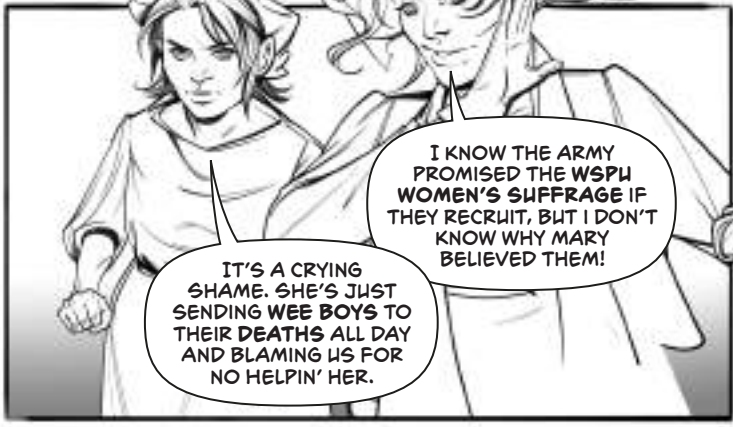


OH NO!
MARY'S AT
IT AGAIN!



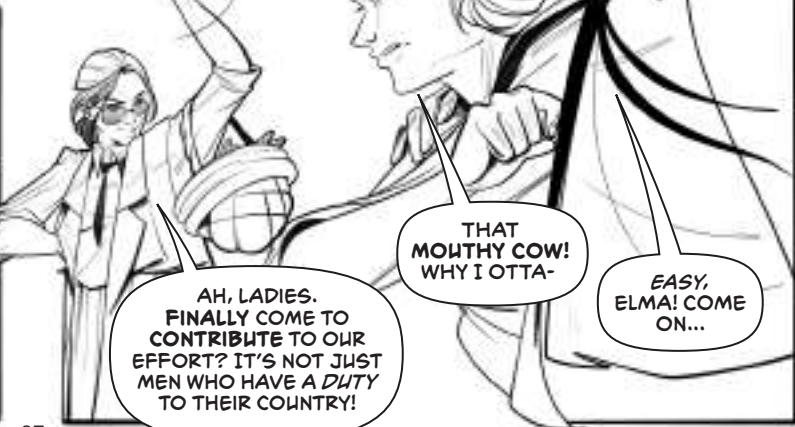
YOUNG MAN!
YOU SHOULD BE ABROAD
PROTECTING US, NOT IN THE
CITY CENTRE SHIRKING YOUR
DUTY TO THE NATION!
SHAME ON YOU!

*JOIN
THE WAR
EFFORT!*



IT'S A CRYING
SHAME. SHE'S JUST
SENDING *WEE BOYS* TO
THEIR DEATHS ALL DAY
AND BLAMING US FOR
NO HELPIN' HER.

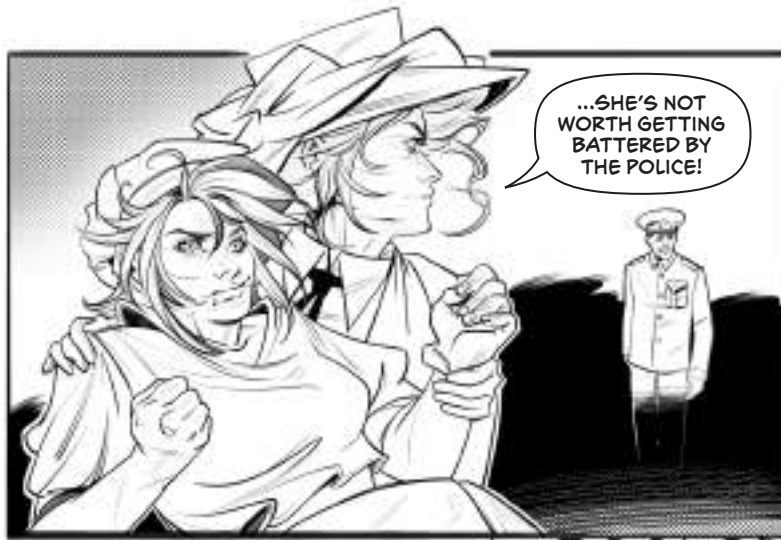
I KNOW THE ARMY
PROMISED THE WSPU
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IF
THEY RECRUIT, BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHY MARY
BELIEVED THEM!



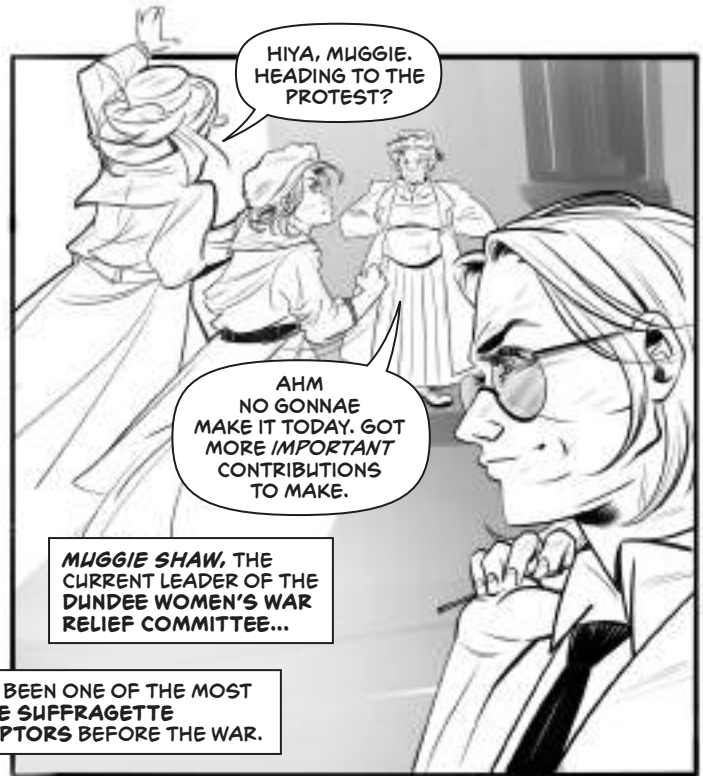
AH, LADIES.
FINALLY COME TO
CONTRIBUTE TO OUR
EFFORT? IT'S NOT JUST
MEN WHO HAVE A *DUTY*
TO THEIR COUNTRY!

THAT
MOUTHY COW!
WHY I OTTA-

EASY,
ELMA! COME
ON...



...SHE'S NOT WORTH GETTING BATTERED BY THE POLICE!



HIYA, MUGGIE. HEADING TO THE PROTEST?

AHM NO GONNAE MAKE IT TODAY. GOT MORE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE.

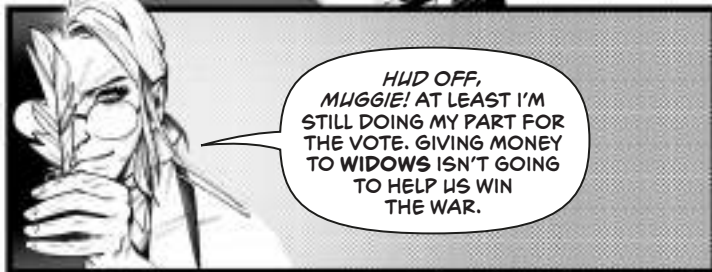
MUGGIE SHAW, THE CURRENT LEADER OF THE DUNDEE WOMEN'S WAR RELIEF COMMITTEE...

...HAD BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE SUFFRAGETTE DISRUPTORS BEFORE THE WAR.



WHEN THE WAR STARTED, THE SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD STOP DISRUPTING AND FOCUS ON THE WAR EFFORT.

THAT NEVER SAT RIGHT WITH MUGGIE.



HUD OFF, MUGGIE! AT LEAST I'M STILL DOING MY PART FOR THE VOTE. GIVING MONEY TO WIDOWS ISN'T GOING TO HELP US WIN THE WAR.



GET IT RIGHT UP YA, MARY!



MUGGIE...

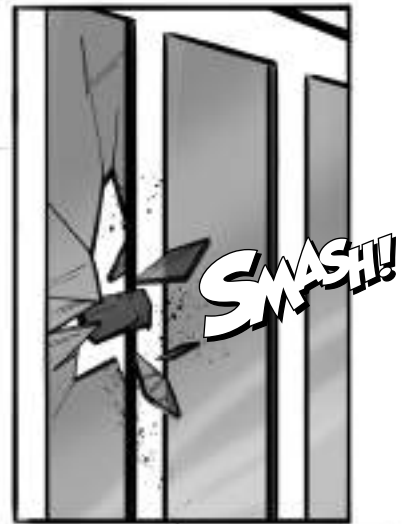
SEE? WHAT DID AH SAY?



YOU'LL LOOK GREAT IN THOSE FEATHERS, MARY, WHEN I'M FINISHED TAR AND FEATHERING YOU!



FINALLY,
SOME
ACTION!



SMASH!!



THAT'S IT!
MUGGIE SHAW,
YER BARRED!

DIDN'T
WANNA DRINK
HERE ANYHOW.



SMASH!!

URGH!



?!

HAHAHA!

CHEERS,
LADIES!

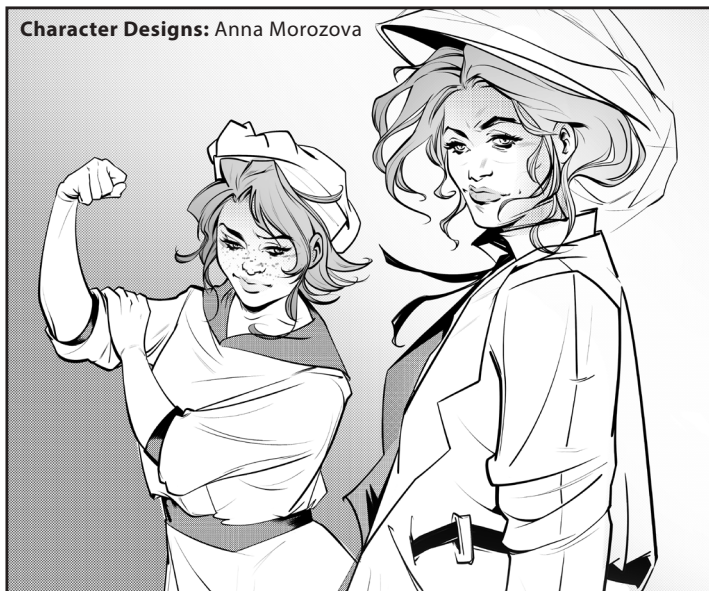
WHEN THE WAR ENDED THE
MEN CAME HOME OR WERE
IMMORTALISED IN THE WAR
MEMORIAL. WOMEN GOT THE
VOTE, BUT LOST THEIR JOBS.
AFTER THE WAR, DUNDEE WAS
A WOMEN'S TOON NO MORE...

THE END.

THUMBNAILS & DESIGNS



Thumbnails: Gary Welsh



Character Designs: Anna Morozova



Thumbnails & Character Designs: Elliot Balson



CONTRIBUTORS



PAT MILLS is the creator and first editor of *2000AD*. He developed *Judge Dredd* and is the writer-creator of many of *2000AD*'s most popular stories. He also created *Action* and co-created *Battle Picture Weekly* and *Misty*. He was the key writer on *Crisis*, with his political thriller about transnational food corporations, *Third World War*.
www.millsverse.com



IAN KENNEDY joined DC Thomson's in 1949. During the 1950's Kennedy mainly illustrated war comics. From the 1970s onward, Kennedy began to specialise in science fiction comics, regularly producing work for *2000AD* and *Starlord*. He has also worked for *Warlord*, *Starblazer*, *Battle*, *Eagle* and continues to work for *Commando* to this day.



GARY WELSH is a graduate of the MDes Comics and Graphic Novels course at the University of Dundee. He is also an alumnus of the undergraduate animation course at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design. He is currently working as a freelance comic book artist in Scotland. Find his work at: www.artstation.com/gw2000



PHILLIP VAUGHAN is a Senior Lecturer and Programme Director at the University of Dundee. He has worked with the BBC, Sony, DC Comics, Warner Bros and EIDOS. He has credits on work such as *Braveheart*, *Farscape*, *Star Trek*, *Wallace and Gromit*, *Tom & Jerry*, *Commando* and *Superman*. He currently hosts a podcast for *Comic Scene Magazine*.
@phillipbvaughan



CHRIS MURRAY is Chair of Comics Studies and the Associate Dean for Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships at the University of Dundee. He is Director of the *Scottish Centre for Comics Studies* and *Dundee Comics Creative Space*. Murray co-edits *Studies in Comics*. He researches British comics, superhero comics and public information comics.
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HAILEY AUSTIN is a freelance comics writer when she's not writing her comics PhD. She has contributed 'Steel Inferno' and other stories to DC Thomson's *Commando* comics, and created some of her own. Follow her on Twitter @HaileyJayAustin or contact her at h.z.austin@dundee.ac.uk
Image: Letty Wilson



ERIN KEEPERS has been active in the comics field since 2014 when she graduated from the University of Dundee with a Masters in Comic Book Studies. Most of her comics are about outer space and/or feminism. Find her work at www.ErinKeepers.com or on Twitter and Instagram @ErinKeepers.



ANNA MOROZOVA is a freelance comic artist and a Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design graduate from their MDes in Comics & Graphic Novels programme. She has worked for *2000AD*, *Comichaus*, and is working on projects for DC Thomson and the *Judge Dredd Magazine*.
[@_annamorozova](https://twitter.com/_annamorozova)



CALUM LAIRD is Dundee born and raised. He started working at DC Thomson in 1979 and was editor of *Commando* from 2007 to 2015. He has recently become a Doctor of Comics with a PhD from the University of Dundee. You can contact Calum via: SergeantJock@BTinternet.com



ELLIOT BALSON is a Dundee Studies in Comics graduate, and now works as a freelance artist, working on various University projects, *Comichaus* and self-published work such as *Untethered*. Search for 'Ell Balson Art' on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
<https://www.artstation.com/ellbalson>

GREAT WAR DUNDEE

RAGTIME SOLDIER

"Joe's an incredibly hard act to follow, but Gary and Phil have cracked it. Today, Charleys War is selling more strongly than ever, which proves there is a huge audience for anti-war stories, particularly among younger readers. Despite this commercial success, the genre is still sadly neglected in favour of escapist fantasy. I guess because of editors' and publishers' personal preference, even if their audience feels differently. I hope Ragtime Soldier goes some way to changing things and encouraging others to produce stories about the genuine, real life heroes who were our forefathers. There are so many more stories about the truth of WWI waiting to be told..."

Pat Mills

Robbie McTaggart is a talented player of Ragtime music, the rebellious new music loved by teenagers; hence why the troops called themselves 'The Ragtime Infantry'. It was the hot music of its day and therefore was hated by parents and the older generation.

Robbie is also a member of Dundee's legendary Black Watch – the Fighting Fourth – who went over the top to the battle cry of 'Marmalade!'

'Ragtime Soldier' is a story with a twist because it also deals with an incredible event after the war when a member of the War Resistance movement sensationally beat Winston Churchill in the Dundee election and became Member of Parliament.

Also featured in this publication is 'The Women's Toon', a story about the Suffragette movement in Dundee, and 'Casualties of War', which is a tale from the World War One trenches.